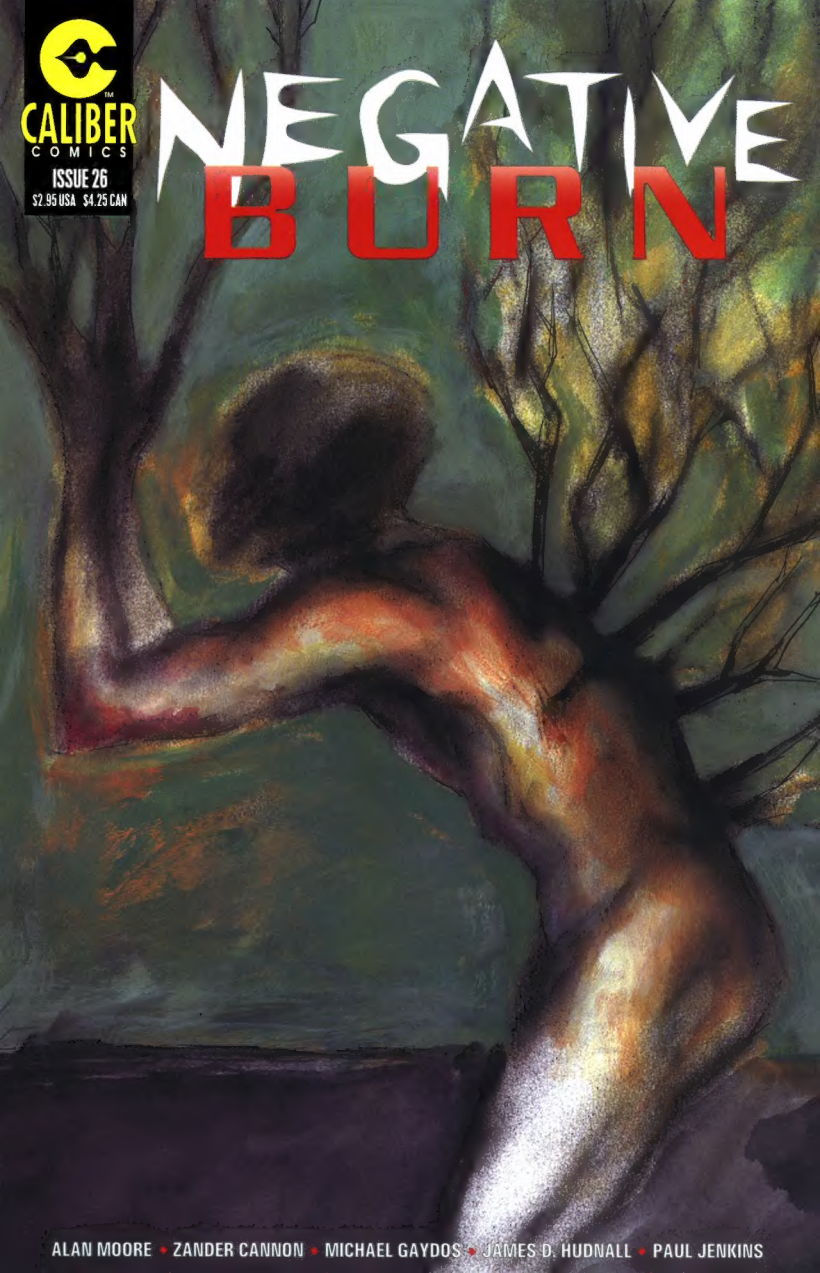
CALIBER
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NEGATIVE
BURN
ALAN MOORE • ZANDER CANNON • MICHAEL GAYDOS • JAMES D. HUDNALL • PAUL JENKINS

NEGATIVE BURN

A Mad Hatter Studios
International Product

Joe Pruett ~ Editor

VOLUME ONE
NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

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written by Paul Jenkins
illustrated by Avido Khahaifa

MR. MAMOULIAN ..... Page 8
written and illustrated by Brian Bolland

THE KISS OFF ..... Page 9
written by James D. Hudnall
illustrated by Brian Michael Bendis

VERY VICKI ..... Page 20
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illustrated by Jana Christy

SUBURBAN NIGHTMARES ..... Page 24
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RUNNING FROM THE GODS ..... Page 32
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ALAN MOORE'S SONGBOOK ..... Page 33
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written by Edward Martin III
illustrated by Chris Hunter and Bradley Walton

STUBBS THE CAT ..... Page 41
written and illustrated by Greg DiGenti

Cover Art by Michael Gaydos

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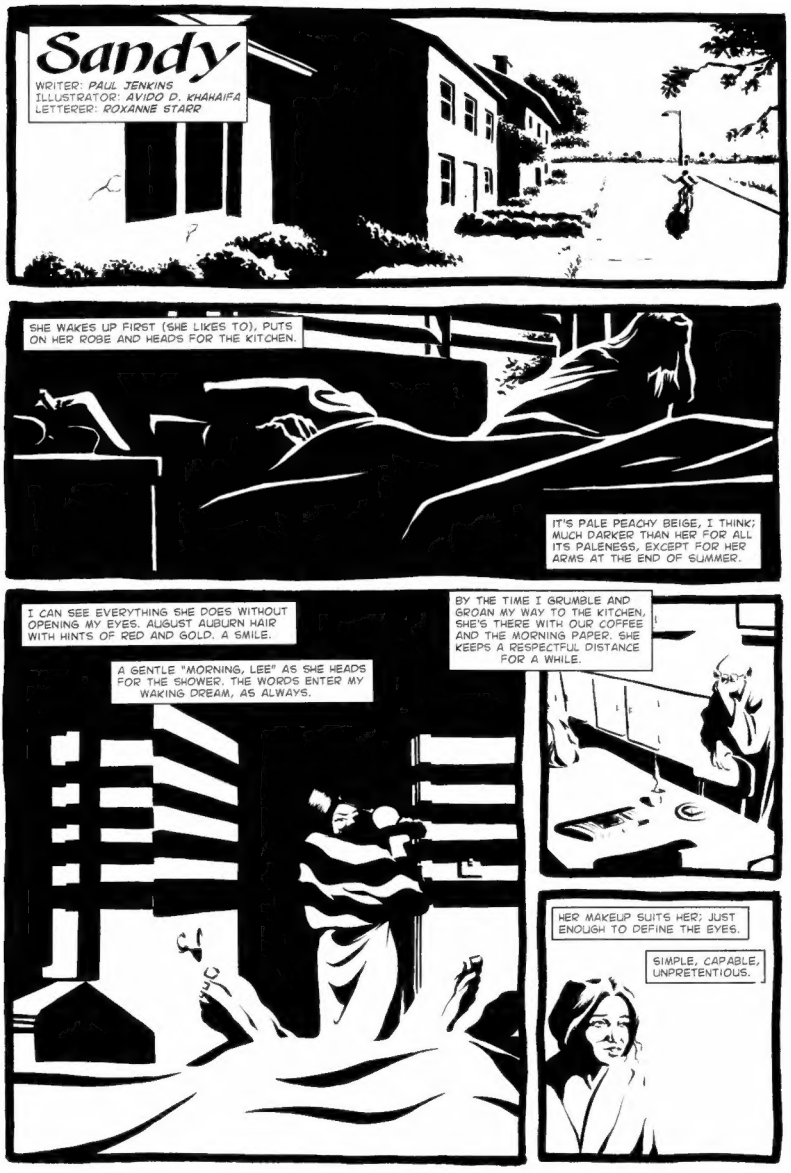
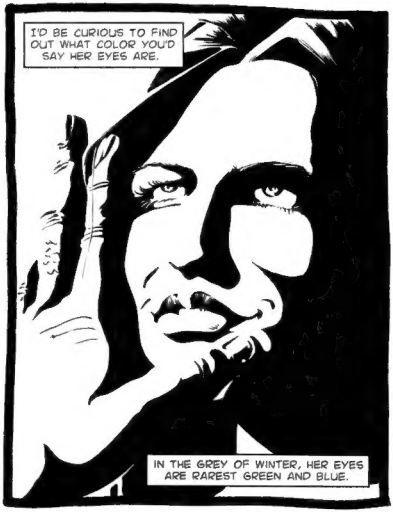

Sandy
WRITER: PAUL JENKINS
ILLUSTRATOR: AVIDO D. KHAHAIFA
LETTERER: ROXANNE STARR
SHE WAKES UP FIRST (SHE LIKES TO), PUTS ON HER ROBE AND HEADS FOR THE KITCHEN.
IT'S PALE PEACHY BEIGE, I THINK; MUCH DARKER THAN HER FOR ALL ITS PALENESS, EXCEPT FOR HER ARMS AT THE END OF SUMMER.
I CAN SEE EVERYTHING SHE DOES WITHOUT OPENING MY EYES. AUGUST AUBURN HAIR WITH HINTS OF RED AND GOLD. A SMILE.
A GENTLE "MORNING, LEE" AS SHE HEADS FOR THE SHOWER. THE WORDS ENTER MY WAKING DREAM, AS ALWAYS.
BY THE TIME I GRUMBLE AND GROAN MY WAY TO THE KITCHEN, SHE'S THERE WITH OUR COFFEE AND THE MORNING PAPER. SHE KEEPS A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE FOR A WHILE.
HER MAKEUP SUITS HER; JUST ENOUGH TO DEFINE THE EYES.
SIMPLE, CAPABLE, UNPRETENTIOUS.

AFTER 15 YEARS, TWO WORDS ARE OFTEN ENOUGH FOR WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE DAY.
AFTER 15 YEARS, WE CAN SPEAK WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.
WE'D HAVE SAID MORE IF WE COULDN'T MEET FOR LUNCH.
BUT SANDY WILL BE THERE TODAY.

IT'S OFTEN THE FIRST TIME I'LL SEE HER, WHEN I'M AT LUNCH. I DON'T PAY ATTENTION IN THE MORNING.
EVEN WHEN SHE LAUGHS, HER POSTURE IS CONSISTENT; SHE LIKES CONSISTENCY.
SHE STANDS SQUARE, NEITHER SLOUCHING NOR PROUD; FEMALE, BUT UNAFFECTED.
AS EVER, SHE STAYS FOCUSED ON PRIMARY FUNDAMENTAL EXISTENCE. BUT A KISS CAN REVEAL THE TENDERNESS OF HER CHILDHOOD.
A KISS TO GET ME THROUGH THE DAY.

I KNOW TONIGHT I'LL FEEL HER VIOLET BREATH AS I SIT ON THE COUCH.
I USUALLY SIT FOR ABOUT TWO MINUTES.
A SOFT KISS, THEN "NIGHTY, LEE" AND I KNOW SHE'S OFF TO BED.
THEN I'M OFF DOWN THE HALL TO TUCK HER IN. A LAST, FAVORITE RITUAL BEFORE BEDTIME.
IN WINTER, SHE LIKES TO WRAP UP AND SNUGGLE. HER CHRISTMAS COMFORTER JUST CALLS FOR BOUNCING AND SILLINESS.
CLAWD, THE CAT, WAITS ALL DAY FOR THIS MOMENT. HIS LOVE FOR HIS MISTRESS RUNS AS DEEP AS MINE.
SO VERY DEEP.


I'D BE CURIOUS TO FIND OUT WHAT COLOR YOU'D SAY HER EYES ARE.
IN THE GREY OF WINTER, HER EYES ARE RAREST GREEN AND BLUE.

GREEN CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU, RIGHT INTO YOUR SOUL.

GREEN WHEN SHE LOVES ME, WHEN SHE WEARS GREEN.

MMM...WHEN SHE WEARS GREEN.

GREEN MEANS TOGETHER, FOREVER.

HER BLUE IS A DARK BLUE, A DEEP SEA BLUE. BLUE IS THE COLD, COLD WATER.
YOU'RE WAKING UP FROM SURGERY AND IT'S BLUE EYES, DEEP BLUE EYES.
HER SOUL LIES INFINITELY STILL WITHIN BLUE.

HOPE I'LL NEVER SEE BLUE EYES AGAIN.

MR. MAMOULIAN
TANGLED SKEIN

BOLAND 9.3.88

MR. MAMOULIAN WHO IS HE? WHERE IS HE FROM? WHAT KIND OF A NAME IS MAMOULIAN? HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO WRETCHED? IS HE, IN PART, AN ALTER-EGO OF THE AUTHOR?

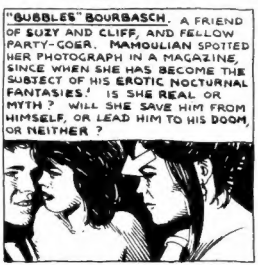
EVELIN (EVEY) VAGUELY PUNKY YOUNG WOMAN. WHY DOES SHE SPEND SO MUCH TIME WITH MAMOULIAN, LISTENING TO HIS PRATTLE ABOUT SCORPIONS AND FROGS AND BATS AND SO ON? DOES SHE HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE? WHY IS HER NAME INCORRECTLY SPELT?

STEVE EVELIN'S BOYFRIEND WITH WHOM SHE LIVES. SPEAKS IN AN UNCOUTH MANNER. WEARS A MYSTERIOUS CROSS-LIKE SYMBOL! IS HE, PERHAPS, A MEMBER OF SOME SINISTER CULT?

LINDA RICKENBACKER. AMERICAN GIRL IN LONDON TO STUDY ART ALONG WITH HER SISTER. APPARENTLY SHE HAS EMBRACED SOME RELIGION WHICH INVOLVES SITTING ON THE FLOOR AND CHANTING! WHAT PART, IF ANY, WILL SHE PLAY IN THIS STORY?

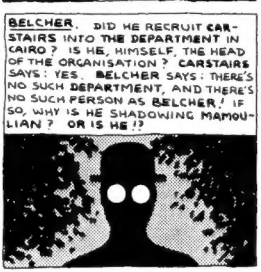
SUZY RICKENBACKER. LINDA'S YOUNGER SISTER. HER INTEREST IN ART HAS TURNED TOWARDS MORE CONCEPTUAL PURSUITS SUCH AS TINKERING WITH TAPE RECORDERS, DRESSING UP AS ANIMALS, AND GOING TO PARTIES. SHE HAS MOVED OUT OF THE FLAT SHE SHARED WITH LINDA, AND MOVED IN WITH CLIFFORD.

"BUBBLES" BOURBASCH. A FRIEND OF SUZY AND CLIFF, AND FELLOW PARTY-GOER. MAMOULIAN SPOTTED HER PHOTOGRAPH IN A MAGAZINE, SINCE WHEN SHE HAS BECOME THE SUBJECT OF HIS EROTIC NOCTURNAL FANTASIES! IS SHE REAL OR MYTH? WILL SHE SAVE HIM FROM HIMSELF, OR LEAD HIM TO HIS DOOM, OR NEITHER?

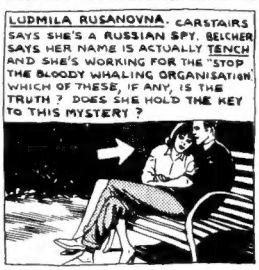


CARSTAIRS. AN OLD DRUNK WHO INSISTS HE IS A HERO OF EL ALAMEIN, IS CURRENTLY AN UNDERCOVER AGENT FOR "THE DEPARTMENT", AND HAS HAD EXTRAVAGANT SEXUAL EXPLOITS IN CAIRO. ARE ANY OF THESE STORIES TRUE? DOES HE PACK A ROD? OR IS HE JUST AN OLD DRUNK?

BELCHER. DID HE RECRUIT CARSTAIRS INTO THE DEPARTMENT IN CAIRO? IS HE, HIMSELF, THE HEAD OF THE ORGANISATION? CARSTAIRS SAYS: YES. BELCHER SAYS: THERE'S NO SUCH DEPARTMENT, AND THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON AS BELCHER! IF SO, WHY IS HE SHADOWING MAMOULIAN? OR IS HE!?



LUDMILA RUSANOVNA. CARSTAIRS SAYS SHE'S A RUSSIAN SPY. BELCHER SAYS HER NAME IS ACTUALLY TENCH AND SHE'S WORKING FOR THE "STOP THE BLOODY WHALING ORGANISATION. WHICH OF THESE, IF ANY, IS THE TRUTH? DOES SHE HOLD THE KEY TO THIS MYSTERY?



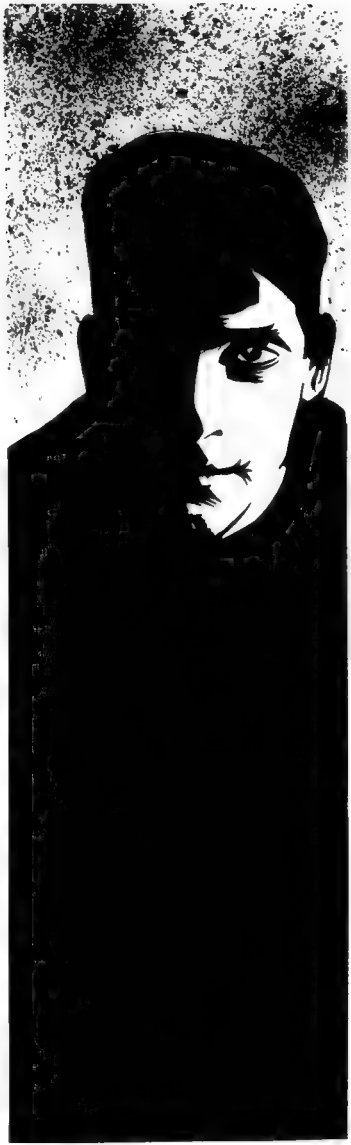
DICK SPRINGER. TUTOR AT LINDA AND SUZY'S ART-SCHOOL. HE SEES POTENTIAL IN SUZY, BUT IS HE INTERESTED IN HER AS AN ARTIST, A WOMAN, OR A PANDA? IS THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN HIS AND BELCHER'S SPECTACLES MERELY A COINCIDENCE? IS HE A SEXUALLY OR ARTISTICALLY FRUSTRATED HOMICIDAL MANIAC WHO WILL BURST INTO VIOLENT ACTION AT THE THRILLING CONCLUSION OF OUR STORY, OR NOT?

MAN ON SOAP BOX AND **A BAG LADY** IS HE, PERHAPS, THE HEAD OF A SINISTER CULT? COULD SHE, POSSIBLY, BE ONE OF THE OTHER CHARACTERS IN DISGUISE? WILL ONE OF THESE TWO TURN OUT TO BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTER IN THE WHOLE STORY, AND SHINE THE BLINDING LIGHT OF UNDERSTANDING ON THIS TANGLED SKEIN?

A CHINA ELEPHANT. INSERTED SO SURREPTITIOUSLY INTO THE PICTURE, HOW COULD THIS NOT BE A MAJOR CLUE? WHAT TERRIFYING SECRET, IF ANY, LURKS BEHIND ITS OBSEQUIOUS EXPRESSION!?

ALL THESE QUESTIONS, OR OTHERS LIKE THEM, WILL BE ASKED IN FUTURE INSTALLMENTS OF:

MR. MAMOULIAN



The story you're about to read is the beginning of a new crime series we've started. We both love comics noir and wanted to add our voice to the growing storm. Superheroes are dead meat. Bad girls are done. This is the future of comics. Dig it!

Brian and I are both veterans of the genre. I did STREETS for DC, he did A.K.A. GOLDFISH for Caliber. Now we're working together on something we plan to burn down the house with. Comics have gotten too boring and predictable. Now the medium's about to reap the whirlwind. And the name of the storm is...

SHUT UP AND DIE!

James Hudnall

Dave Engel in:

THE KISS OFF

By James D. Hudnall and Brian Michael Bendis

WE'D JUST FUCKED AND I KNEW IT WAS OVER BEFORE SHE FINISHED HER CIGARETTE.
MINUTES AGO, WE WERE BOTH THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE AS WE WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS.
THAT WAS A NICE WAY TO END THINGS, DON'T YOU THINK?
SO THIS IS A KISS OFF, HUH?
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
THIS ISN'T ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE. WE'RE BOTH NOT HAVING FUN ANYMORE.
YOU KNOW ME, BABE, I'M NATURALLY CURIOUS.

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST REMEMBER THAT IT'S OVER.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE *LACKING IN* ***WOMEN,*** DAVE.
I'D BEEN SEEING TRACY FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS. WE'D HAD SOME GOOD TIMES. BUT LATELY WE STARTED DRIFTING.
STILL, THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER GOODBYE THAT BOTHERED ME.
I KNEW SHE HAD A THING FOR *BAD BOYS,* WHICH IS WHY SHE WENT FOR ***ME.***
THE THING IS, DIG DEEP ENOUGH AND I'M AN ALL RIGHT GUY. I WONDERED ABOUT MY REPLACEMENT.
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FIND OUT.

A SHOWER AND A CHANGE OF DUDS LATER, I MADE IT TO RED'S RECOVERY ROOM.
EXIT
I HAD TWO SHOTS OF WILD TURKEY IN ME AND A WAS STARTING AT THE THIRD, WAITING FOR DUKE JONES TO SHOW UP.
WE WERE PLANNING A GIG. A HEIST OF A SAFE IN SOME WAL-MART OVER IN CANTON.
SO...WHILE I WAITED, I EAVESDROPPED.
SO THIS COOZE, SHE'S HOT. I MEAN, WE'RE LAYIN' PIPE DAY AND FUCKIN' NIGHT, RIGHT?
BUT I THINK SHE'S BEEN SEEIN' SOME GUY. SOME FUCKIN' LOWLIFE BOOSTER.
HOW D'YOU KNOW?
I GOT EYES ON THE STREET. IN FACT, I HEARD TRACY WAS SEEIN' HIM TONIGHT.
AND IF I KNEW WHERE, THE FUCKER WOULD BE SUCKIN' OFF A SHOTGUN RIGHT NOW.

FUCKIN' BROADS, I'M TELLIN' YA.
IT'S NO PROBLEM, PETE. YOU JUST GOTTA KNOCK THE BITCHES AROUND.
SHE'LL LEARN WHO'S BOSS SOON ENOUGH.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, JOE. SLAP THE WHORES!
SEE, SHE MAY HAVE BEEN GIVIN' THIS GUY THE KISS OFF TONITE. SO I'LL LET IT SLIDE THIS TIME.
BUT IF I EVER SEE THE PRICK, HE'S MY DOG!
YOU TELL HER THE SCORE. BITCHES NEED TO KNOW WHO'S BOSS.
AIN'T IT THE TRUTH.
EXIT
YEAH...
SO WHAT'S THIS SCHMOE'S NAME? YOU FIND OUT?
HIS NAME'S ENGEL. DAVE ENGEL.

HEY, ENGEL!
EXIT
C'MON, DUKE. LET'S GET A BOOTH OVER THERE.
SOUNDS GOOD, DAWEN.
KEEP IT DOWN! SHIT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAN?
YOU MAY HAVE JUST *FUCKED ME* WITH A *CHAINSAW*. THERE'S SOME MOB DUDES OVER THERE WHO'VE DEVELOPED A THING FOR ME.
FER CHRIST'S SAKE, DON'T LOOK!
THERE'S TWO DUDES COMIN' THIS WAY.

WELL, WELL ...DAVE ENGEL, IS IT?
YEAH.
I HEAR YOU USE TO BANG TRACY. WELL, I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT SHIT IS OVER.
I FIND OUT YOU'VE BEEN SEEIN' HER AND YOU'LL BE IN THE FUCKIN' GROUND COME MORNING.
YOU HEAR ME, ASSHOLE?
I'M NOT SEEING HER.
I DON'T GIVE A FUCK! I SAID IF I *FIND OUT* YOU'VE BEEN SEEING HER, YOU'RE GONNA GET A 12-GAUGE EMEMA.
AM I MAKIN' MYSELF CLEAR?
I'M NOT CRAZY...BUT SOMETIMES WHEN I'M PUSHED TOO FAR, I CAN SUDDENLY SNAP.
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.
LISTEN, FUCKWAD, I HEARD YOU TALKING ABOUT TRACY WITH YOUR BUTT BUDDY OVER THERE.
I EVER FIND OUT *YOU'VE* HIT HER, I'M GONNA *NAIL YOU TO THE WALL* AND *ROTATE YOUR ASS!*

IZZAT SO? YOU THINK YOU CAN TALK THAT SHIT TO ME?!
I SUGGEST YOU PAY UP YOUR LIFE INSURANCE, 'CAUSE ONE OF THESE DAYS WE'RE GOIN' FOR A RIDE!
GO RIDE YOUR BOYFRIEND OVER THERE AND FUCK OFF! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU, DICKLESS!
ALL RIGHT. OKAY. YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM ME! WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT!
DAVE, ARE YOU NUTS? THOSE ARE MADE GUYS! THEY'LL SMOKE YOUR ASS!
NO THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR BIG MOUTH. I WOULD'VE BEEN...
AH, SCREW IT.
I GOTTA JUMP. WE'LL TALK LATER, DUKE.
MAYBE.

I KNEW I WAS COOKED. THEY'D HAVE ME IN THE TRUNK OF A CAR, FIRST CHANCE.
THERE WAS ONLY ONE OPTION NOW, AND RUNNING WASN'T IT.
I FOLLOWED AT A SAFE DISTANCE, MY MIND IN OVERDRIVE.
SOMEHOW I HAD TO TAKE THESE JAMOKES OUT BEFORE THEY TOLD SOMEONE ELSE ABOUT ME.
I RAN THROUGH AN INVENTORY OF WHAT I CARRIED IN THE TRUNK. TOOLS OF THE TRADE.
MINUTES LATER, THEY WENT IN FOR SOME EATS. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY I CRAVED.
SEE, MY SPECIALTY IS BLOWING SAFES OPEN. BUT I KNOW HOW TO BLOW UP OTHER THINGS, TOO.

I SET UP A SPECIAL DETONATOR THAT WOULD TRIP THE SECOND TIME HE STARTED THE CAR.
I WANTED SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIM AND THE BAR WHEN HE CHECKED OUT, TO THROW SUSPICION OFF ME AND MY HANDSOME FACE.
00:02
00:01
GOOD.
GO AND BURN, FUCK HEADS!
AFTER THAT, I DIDN'T WANT TO FOLLOW THEM. I GRABBED A COUPLE WHITE CASTLE BURGERS, FOOD OF THE GODS, THEN HEADED OVER TO TRACY'S TO SEE IF SHE WAS ALL RIGHT.
NO...!

00:00
SOMETIMES, KIDS.. CRIME DOESN'T PAY.

Meet Danny Ocean presents
VERY VICKY And The Secret Of The Bronx Cocktail
By John Mitchell & Jana Christy
Chapter 3
"Vicky and Cris are in a race against time."
THE EXPOSED ANKLE
BUT VICKY- WHAT WOULD YOUR FORMER HEADMISTRESS HAVE TO DO WITH THE BRONX COCKTAIL?
BROOKSIE'S PROBABLY HAD A FEW, FOR STARTERS.
WOW! AN OLDE TYME SPEAKEASY!
LE BAR
MONDAYS MELROSE MAMA
TUESDAYS KARAOKE!
WEDNESDAY JELLO SHOTS!
THURSDAY 1/2 PRICE MARTINIS!
FRIDAY KENO!
GOD BLESS REVITALIZATION, HUH?
DARLING!
BROOKSIE! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU! WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE BRONX COCKTAIL!
AH! THE BRONX COCKTAIL! SO MANY MEMORIES!

ADOLFO, ANOTHER GIN!
WE MET WITH THE 'MAN WITH THE BLUE MARTINI', BUT MANAGED TO LOSE HIM!
WHICH WE WOULDVE DONE WITHOUT ALL THIS INTRIGUE BY THE WAY! EWW- A BLUE MARTINI!
WELL DARLINGS- PREVIOUSLY, IN MY FLAPPER ERA, YOU KNOW, I WAS NEVER THE "IT" GIRL, THAT WAS SILLY COW-EYED CLARA
I WAS MORE THE "GOD HELP US" GIRL, WHICH OF COURSE
WON ME ACCOLADES FROM ALL THE SO-CALLED "RIGHT" PEOPLE
-AND WORKED AS AN EASY ENTRANCE TO THEIR CONVOLUTED SOIREES
AN UNFORTUNATE PORTION OF WHICH MY SISTER GAIL
-GAIL WHO SPEAKS IN A HISS I MIGHT ADD
ABOUT THE BRONX COCKTAIL...
ALWAYS MY FINEST PUPIL, VICKY, WELL GROOMED AND FULL OF MOXY- ADOLFO, ANOTHER GIN!

WE'RE WORRIED THIS COULD ALL BE A SINISTER AXIS PLOT!
I'M SURE THEY LURK AROUND- A BLUE MARTINI SOUNDS LIKE A HORROR, DARLINGS, A SIMPLE HORROR!
TRUST AGED AXIS LACKEYS TO HARNESS A MARTINI FOR EVIL!
IT'S TUESDAY NIGHT KARAOKE AT THE EXPOSED ANKLE!
THE "man with the blue martini" is leading karaoke!
YES DARLING, I SAY THIS— ONE MARTINI BROTHER OWNED A GIN DISTILLERY, THE OTHER AN ORANGE GROVE...
BOTH VYING FOR THE HAND OF THE ITALIAN VERMOUTH HEIRESS!
DOES THIS HELP, DARLING?
ADOLFO! ANOTHER GIN FOR BROOKSIE!
WHY SO RUSHED? WHY NOT SING A SONG LIKE YOU MEAN IT!
HERE, GIRLS- THOSE LYRICS I PROMISED!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS ONE!
I'M NOT AFRAID.
I'M AFRAID.
CORNFLAKE GIRL BY TORI AMOS
TO BE CONT'D...

"Hip in a Peter Sellers sort of way. Crazy muzak jazz and Mr Sellers wearing John Lennon specs dressed in a Nehru jacket with black socks and sandals stepping in a pile of something" -Pop Art Times

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VERY VICKY

By John & Jana

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Retailer inquiries are welcome- we participate in the 40 & 5 plan.

Suburban Nightmares

MISTER FORD

PART TWO • STORY HANCOCK AND CHERKAS • SCRIPT LARRY HANCOCK • ART MICHAEL CHERKAS

PASS.
...REMINDS ME OF CAT FOOD...
YOU CAN'T EVEN TRUST THE WEATHER-MEN ANYMORE...
PASS.
WHAT ABOUT ROOKIE' GILCHRIST?
PASS.
VA-SHOOOM!!
PASS.
YOU'RE NUTS! GEORGE REED WAS THE BEST DAWN FULLBACK TO EVER PLAY THE GAME!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU BOYS NOT TO RUN IN THE HOUSE!

WELL...YOU GIRLS HAVE A PRETTY GOOD LEAD ON US... SO... I'LL MAKE IT...
...SPADES!
SPADES?...
SPADES?
...UH... YOU'RE GOING ALONE, AREN'T YOU, HARVEY?
SPADES!

Three tricks later...
C'MON, AL, PLAY A CARD.
THAT WASN'T TOO SMART, AL.
YOUR PLAY HARVEY.
DON'T RUSH ME, MADGE.
THERE!
START CRYING, HARVEY...
...YOU'RE EUCHRED!
BUT...
THAT'S THE GAME. 10-4!
GOSH, THAT'S THREE GAMES STRAIGHT THEY'VE BEAT YOU, DAD!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR MOTHERS ARE ALWAYS STEALING POINTS-
-HARVEY!
AREN'T YOU BOYS SUPPOSED TO BE UPSTAIRS — OUT OF OUR WAY? — GO ON — SKEDADDLE NOW!
C'MON, MARTY!
FRESH DRINKS FOR EVERYONE?
SO, HARVEY, MADGE SAYS YOU DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS A MR. FORD!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I JUST SAID THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE AROUND THAT HOUSE SINCE THE GAMBLES MOVED AWAY!
...WANNA SEE A SECRET?
UH... SURE.

LOOK AT THESE! MY DAD KEEPS 'EM UNDER HIS BOOKS!
?
WOW! NEAT!
PENTHOUSE
HE'S GOT TWO WHOLE YEARS WORTH HERE— AND THERE'S MORE IN SOME BOXES IN THE GARAGE!
WELL, IT'S BEEN THREE WEE SI M MOVED IN...
HEY, LISTEN!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THESE BEFORE?
YOU CAN HEAR OUR FOLKS REAL CLEAR FROM HERE.
...AND SOMEONE'S CERTAINLY BEEN FIXING UP THE PLACE...
MY MOM WOULD KILL MY DAD IF HE BOUGHT ANY OF THESE!
SHHHH!
...I DON'T LIKE RICKEY GOING NEAR THE PLACE...
IF WE CAN HEAR THEM, MAYBE THEY CAN HEAR US! LET'S GO TO MY ROOM.
I'M BRINGING THESE!
...NOW, HARVEY, HE'S JUST DELIVERING THE PAPER ONCE A DAY...
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I DON'T THINK THESE GIRLS ARE REAL. NONE OF THE GIRLS AT SCHOOL LOOK LIKE THIS.
...YOU'D ALMOST HAVE TO BELIEVE THIS "MR. FORD" CHARACTER IS MOWING THE LAWN AT MIDNIGHT. YOU NEVER SEE HIM...

NO. I MEAN ABOUT MR. FORD.
I DUNNO. WHAT DO YOU THINK? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN IN HIS HOUSE—
—JUST THAT ONE TIME—
—DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW?..
PENT
UHH... HE'S DIFFERENT... ...I GUESS...
...DIFFERENT?
...LIKE WHEN I COLLECT—HE LEAVES THE MONEY IN HIS MAILBOX—
SMOKE! and be KOOL!
—HEY, LOOK!
?
ONE TRUCK DRIVES AWAY—THE OTHER TAKES ITS PLACE!
UPS
Bell
...I SAY HE DOESN'T EXIST! MAYBE THE OWNER FIXES THE PLACE UP... YOU KNOW—TO TRY AND SELL THE PLACE!
SOMETHING FISHY IS GOING ON!
WELL, MAYBE NO ONE HAS TRIED TO MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME
NEXT SATURDAY, WHEN I DO THE BAKING, I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM OVER...
MORE DRINKS?
SURE, HARV.
"...A NICE CHOCOLATE CAKE
I'LL HAVE A BIG PIECE WHEN YOU GET BACK, MADGE!
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE, HARVEY!

DUM-DE-DUM...
...DO-DEE-DO...
?!?
HELLO! HELLO?
MR. FORD?
?
ARE YOU THERE?
IT'S MRS MITCHELL, FROM DOWN THE STREET...
...I'VE BROUGHT YOU A CAKE!
NO LUCK, HMM. SEE, I TOLD YOU THERE'S NO ONE THERE.
OH, HE'S THERE ALRIGHT! I SAW HIM BEHIND THOSE CURTAINS!

IT'S BEEN THERE FOR TWO DAYS...
...ICE CREAM TRUCKS USUALLY ONLY STOP FOR TEN MINUTES...
...TWENTY MINUTES TOPS—IF THEY'VE GOT BUSINESS!
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU GONNA ASK THEM?
NO! YOU ASK THEM, MARTY.
C'MON.
GO AHEAD, RICKEY, ASK HIM.
—UH-UH-VANILLA SWIRL, PLEASE—WITH CHOCOLATE DIP.
NO SWIRLS TODAY, KID! HAVE A "DICKY-DILLY" INSTEAD!
BUT I DON'T LIKE "DICKY-DILLYS"
ASK HIM ALREADY!
TOO BAD, KID, THE SWIRL MACHINE IS BUSTED!
SO WHAT'LL IT BE KID?
UH-DO-YOU-HAVE-A-BROTHER-WHO-LOOKS-JUST-LIKE-YOU-AND-WHO-WORKS-FOR-THE PHONE-COMPANY?
WHA—?

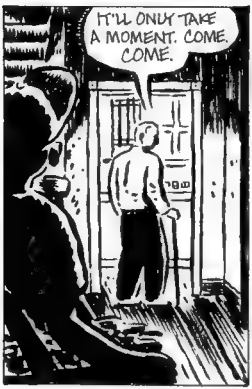
?
HERE! TAKE YOUR DAMN "DILLY" BARS AND SCRAM!
?
DICKY DILLY
DICKY DILLY

SEE, I TOLD YOU!
THEY'RE SPIES!
CIA!
KGB!
SPIES!
SAME DIFF.

WHERE'S THE MONEY?
IT'S ALWAYS HERE—

—RICKEY! THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
UH... MR. FORD, YOUR MONEY'S NOT—

NO, NO. I HAVEN'T HAD TIME. COME IN, COME IN.
MY... MY DAD DOESN'T LIKE ME TO...


IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT. COME. COME.

HAVE A COOKIE.
YOU MADE THESE? MY DAD CAN'T BAKE COOKIES. HE ONLY COOKS ON THE BARBECUE. THAT'S 'CUZ HE BURNS EVERYTHING!

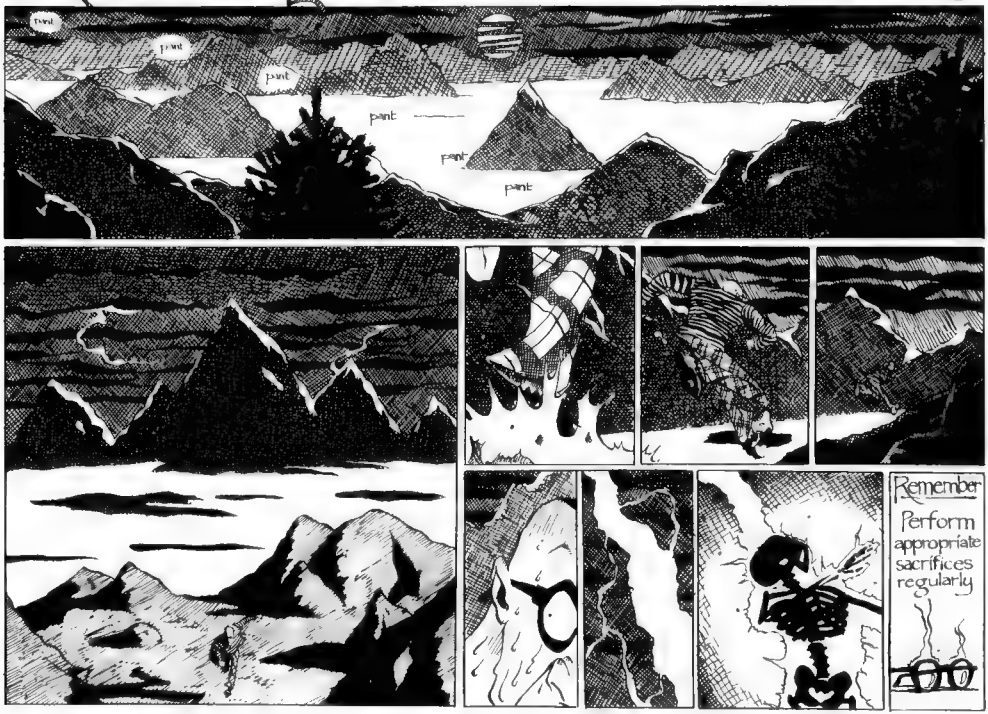
WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF?
SENT
KENNEDY
UH... JUST SOME RESEARCH ...I'M DOING... FOR A BOOK...

HE WAS ASSASSINATED, YOU KNOW. MY TEACHER THINKS-
-YEAH... EVERYBODY THINKS ...SOMETHING...
...HERE...I BETTER...UH... PAY YOU FOR THE PAPERS... SO... ...YOU CAN... UH... GET OUT OF HERE...
...OOOOOOH...
CAN I TAKE A COUPLE OF EXTRA COOKIES?
...SURE...? GASP!
GAAAK!
MR. FORD?!
MR. FORD! MR. FORD, WAKE UP!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
STAND BACK! LET US AT HIM!
HE'S SICK! YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS HE GONNA BE OKAY?
?
IT COULD BE HIS HEART. WE SHOULD CALL THE DOCTOR.
NAH. IF HE BUYS IT THAT'S IT.
GET OUTTA HERE, KID SCRAM!
FORGET EVERYTHING YOU SAW IN HERE!
!!
BEAT IT, NOW!

CONTINUED...

Running from the Gods

by Zander



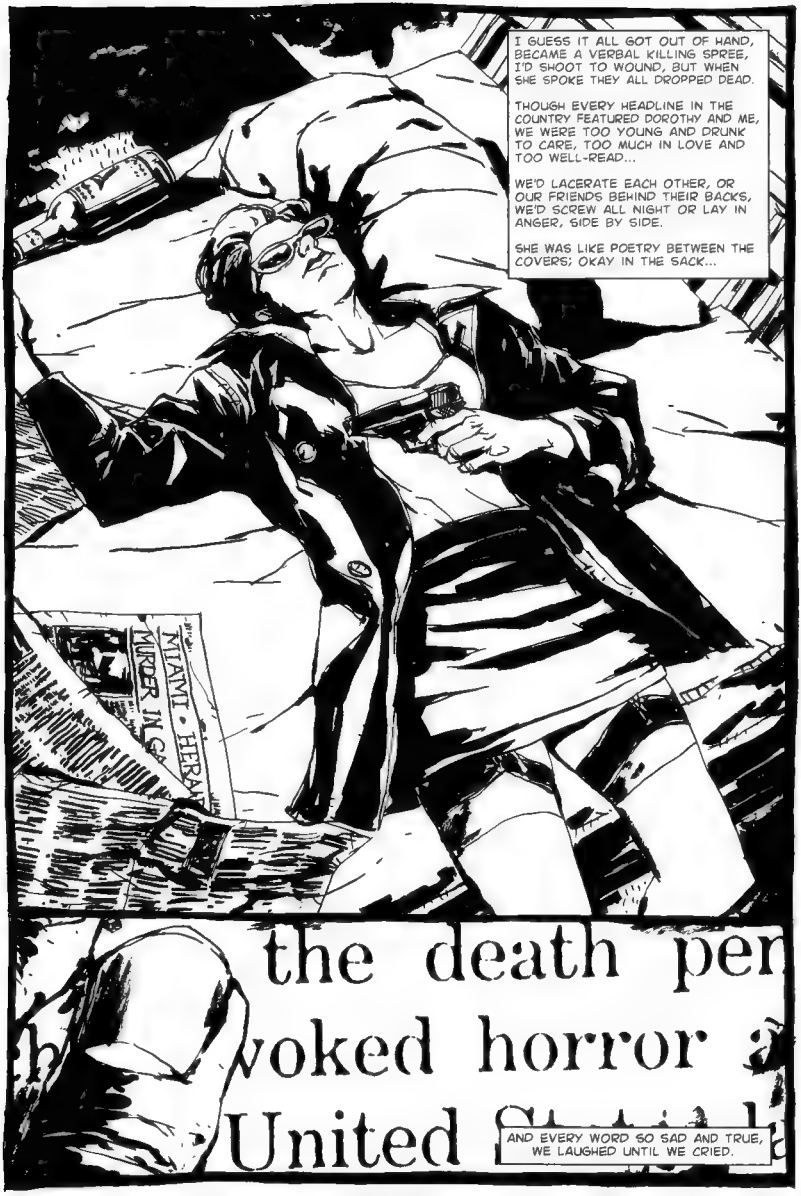
Me and Dorothy Parker

A Song by Alan Moore

ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL GAYDOS
LETTERED BY ROXANNE STARR

WHEN MY THUMBS BOTH STARTED ACHING, I JUST SAT DOWN BY THE ROAD, TO READ THE NEWSPAPERS I'D GOT STUFFED IN MY SHOES,
I HAD A DOUBLE-BARRELLED SHOTGUN AND A LONG RED LEATHER COAT,
AND A PHONE NUMBER IN CLEVELAND, BUT I WASN'T CERTAIN WHOSE...
216-3
AND SO I DIDN'T SEE THE CAR PULL UP, I JUST HEARD THE BRAKE-PADS SQUEAL,
IT WAS AN OLDSMOBILE, AS HOT AND BLACK AS SIN..
AND THERE SHE SAT BEHIND THE WHEEL: SHE SAID "YOU LOOK JUST HOW I FEEL"
...SHE SAID "MY NAME'S DOROTHY PARKER," AND SHE TOLD ME TO GET IN.

WE FOUND A LONELY FILLING-STATION RIGHT OUTSIDE MIAMI BEACH...IT WAS TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS.
THE OLD MAN STARTED UP TO SCREECH, I SLIPPED SOME SHELLS INTO THE BREECH,
SHE PULLED A PEN OUT OF HER GARTER...
...AND SAID "LET ME HANDLE THIS!"
AND THEN SHE CUT HIM WITH AN EPIGRAM AND SLEW HIM WITH A WORD; WE TOOK HIS CASH AND FILLED THE OLDSMOBILE WITH FUEL.
AND AT THE MOTEL LATER, IN MY MOUTH, HER BREAST PULSED LIKE A BIRD...AND I HAVE NEVER KNOWN A WOMAN HALF AS FUNNY; HALF AS CRUEL. SHE SAID...
INN
NO VACANCY
"LIFE IS A GLORIOUS CYCLE OF SONG, A MEDLEY OF EXTEMPORANEA. AND LOVE IS A THING THAT CAN NEVER GO WRONG, AND I AM MARIE OF ROUMANIA."


I GUESS IT ALL GOT OUT OF HAND, BECAME A VERBAL KILLING SPREE, I'D SHOOT TO WOUND, BUT WHEN SHE SPOKE THEY ALL DROPPED DEAD.
THOUGH EVERY HEADLINE IN THE COUNTRY FEATURED DOROTHY AND ME, WE WERE TOO YOUNG AND DRUNK TO CARE, TOO MUCH IN LOVE AND TOO WELL-READ...
WE'D LACERATE EACH OTHER, OR OUR FRIENDS BEHIND THEIR BACKS, WE'D SCREW ALL NIGHT OR LAY IN ANGER, SIDE BY SIDE.
SHE WAS LIKE POETRY BETWEEN THE COVERS; OKAY IN THE SACK...
MIAMI • HERA
MURDER IN G
the death pen
voked horror a
United
AND EVERY WORD SO SAD AND TRUE, WE LAUGHED UNTIL WE CRIED.

THEY CAUGHT UP WITH US IN FRESNO, WHEN SHE CASHED SOME BAD REVIEWS,
IN A POSITION SHE HAD NO WAY TO DEFEND...
AND I DON'T KNOW IF THE S.W.A.T. TEAM OR THE HEAT -BREAK OR THE BOOZE WAS WHAT SHOT HER UP SO BADLY BY THE END,
I WANTED TO SURRENDER BUT SHE FOUGHT TO THE LAST LINE,
SHE SAID "LET'S SHOOT OUR WAY OUTSIDE AND MAKE A STAND"...
I LAUGHED AND SAID "AGE BEFORE BEAUTY;"
SHE REPLIED "PEARLS BEFORE SWINE" AND WE WENT OUT WITH BOTH LIPS BLAZING, AND A PEN IN EITHER HAND.
SHE SAID...
"LIFE IS A GLORIOUS CYCLE OF SONG,
A MEDLEY OF EXTEMPORANEA.
AND LOVE IS A THING THAT CAN NEVER GO WRONG,
AND I AM MARIE OF ROUMANIA."

THE TENSOR MATRIX: "FTL"
FINALLY!
I HOPE IT WORKS.
WRITTEN BY EDWARD MARTIN III
ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS HUNTER AND BRADLEY WALTON
LETTERED BY ROXANNE STARR
OH IT WILL, MARCUS, IT WILL!
WHEN YOU ACTIVATE THE CROSS-FIELD MATRIX, THE NEGATIVE MASS ENVELOPE WILL FORCE US TO A TACHYON-LIKE STATE!
WE WILL EXCEED THE SPEED OF *LIGHT*, MARCUS. *LIGHT!*
THAT'S *IF* YOUR NEGATIVE MASS ENVELOPE THEORY EVEN *WORKS*, JORDAN, AND I'M *STILL* NOT CONVINCED IT WILL.
WELL, THERE'S NO BETTER TIME THAN THE PRESENT, IS THERE? THE COMPUTER'S RECORDING, SO IN WE GO!

NO MORE TIME FOR TALK. ACTIVATE THE MATRIX!!
RIGHT
T-CHUNG
OH MY...
UM
ZZZZZAAA

MARCUS, WE'VE DONE IT! NO MORE DEPENDENCE ON IMPERIAL STAR GATES. WE CAN GO ANYWHERE!
EXCEPT FOR TWO PROBLEMS ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ALTHOUGH YOUR NEGATIVE MASS ENVELOPE THEORY HELD TRUE, I WAS CORRECT ABOUT THE REVERSE TIME DILATION EFFECT.
...LOOK AT OUR OBJECTIVE TIME!
AMAZING! WE'RE ACTUALLY TRAVELING BACKWARDS THROUGH TIME!
AND UNFORTUNATELY, ACCELERATING.
NO! WE MUST DISENGAGE THE MATRIX AT ONCE!
THAT'S THE OTHER PROBLEM.

MUCH LATER...
BA-ZZZZZZIIIPP!
THANK GOODNESS!
I SURE WISH WE HADN'T USED *RIVETS*
SO WHERE *ARE* WE?
..WE'VE USED ALL OUR FUEL.
WHEN IS MORE LIKE IT. I'D ESTIMATE ABOUT A HUNDRED SIXTY MILLION YEARS. MAYBE MORE.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE. *NOW!*
WELL, THERE'S *ANOTHER* PROBLEM...

Stubbs the CAT
IN
HEY, WAITER!
GREG DIGENTI
WAITER! ONE STEAK, MEDIUM RARE!
NO... IT CAN'T BE...
STUBBS!? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE? DO YOU WANT ME TO LOSE MY JOB?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, JOE? I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT IN THIS SHITHOLE?
YOU'RE A CAT, DAMMIT!
SO WHAT? I'M WEARING A SHIRT AND TIE!
YEAH, MY SHIRT AND TIE. NICE CHOICE, BY THE WAY, DISCO DUCK.
HEY, MAN, I'M HIP AS CRAP! NOW SERVE ME! I'VE GOT THE CASH!
BEAT IT, STUBBS!
WHAT? MY MONEY'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?
NOT WHEN IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF SUPER MARKET RECEIPTS!

BESIDES, THIS IS A VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT. WE DON'T SERVE MEAT.
N-N-NO M-MEAT?
NOPE. I COULD FIX YOU A SOY-BURGER, THOUGH.
NO MEAT?
YOU WORK AT A RESTAURANT THAT DOESN'T SERVE MEAT?!
A NICE PASTA SALAD, PERHAPS?
UH...THANKS, JOE, BUT I'VE REALLY GOTTA' GET GOING.
TOFU AND LIMA BEANS?
I SEEM TO RECALL PASSING A RANCID SQUIRREL CADAVER ON THE WAY OVER...
I'LL JUST PUT SOME DALE'S ON IT. DALE'S MAKES ANY-THING TASTE GOOD.
JACK SLAUGHTER'S HOUSE O' MEAT
I SURE AM GLAD CATS CAN'T READ.
-END-

letters

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

Another magnificent issue, NEGATIVE BURN No. 22 was one of the best to come out this year, with the number of features which were able to tickle my fancy being higher than as has been the case in the last few issues.

One of the main reasons for that enthusiastic and positive comment on this issue was the inclusion of EXIT. The more I see and read of Nabiel Kanan's work, the more I'm enjoying it and the more I'm appreciating his efforts to create such appealing stories against such a wonderfully realistic background. Especially his untraditional artwork is superlative and a pleasure to look at longer than the time it takes to read the words in the panels. The big question is, when exactly will the monthly book come out? It wasn't solicited for August, so I have to presume it'll come out after this year's summer, then.

POACHER was brilliant, plain and simple. Phillip Hester is quickly turning out to be a very versatile artist, with his style perfectly capable of adapting to the necessary mood for different sorts of stories. Of course, Jim Frier's tale also helped make this short story worth its while. It was especially nice to find out that the captions didn't reflect Mr. Henshaw's thoughts, but that of Vrox instead. All in all, a very enjoyable story.

Keep Greg DiGenti around, I once again tell you! I simply love his artwork and his sometimes plain absurd humor. OOH, BABY THAT'S WHAT I HATE was another example of his abilities, and though it was rather short, it was one of the highlights of the issue.

But not *the* highlight. For that honor goes to Wheeler and Oakley's terrifying tale called DONOR. The art is anything but appealing. It's chaotic and sometimes even messy, but somehow it just clicked with the story presented to us here, actually enhancing the chilling atmosphere. The thought of an organ donor who is able to regenerate the missing body parts alone is frightening enough an idea, but the thought of that same donor being able to control all those body parts even after the transplant is even scarier! Great work, without a shadow of a doubt!

Good to hear, by the by, that you're prepping some short tales form Teri S. Wood, Colleen Doran and Martin Wagner. I'm already looking forward to them, especially Wood's DARKLIGHT preview! Thanks for your time and I'll be seeing you around, either next issue or in San Diego!

EXIT, the bi-monthly series, will be starting up in September from Caliber. I've seen the first issue and let me tell you it looks great!

Also glad you liked DONOR so much, Olav. It's quite a change of pace from Doug Wheeler's CLASSIC DESECRATED, isn't it?!

Ross Peterson
18442 California
Homewood, IL 60430

Hey Joe,

I am a Houdini fan and found the Mrs. Houdini story to be really neat. Very clever to use her perspective. NEGATIVE BURN reads more like a literary magazine than a comic book. Wow!

Glad you liked Marc Erickson's HOUDINI story, Ross. Marc has been putting a ton of research time into the legend of Houdini recently and he's promised more shorts starring the famous escape-artist in the near future.

Andreas Koerver
Wolfstr. 41
53111 Bonn
Germany

Dear Joe!

Let's talk about the latest trip to Burnville (No. 22).

The EXIT short was splendid. I can hardly wait to see the first issue of the new series out. I don't know, but these stories feature high school folks and teenagers and then it's unlike anything I'd expect from a comic book about these people. There are these fine-lined drawings of the characters with cartoon-like facial expressions (as in STRANGERS IN PARADISE)-very clean pages layout, too. Then there's quick-witted dialogue (as in WHY I HATE SATURN). But everything that's going on, happens in between the drawings and the dialogue, happens in the reactions on the characters faces. And through the cleverly constructed plot, the "standing in front of the bathroom mirror" panels get a different meaning in the end.

"The Lake District" was as lovely as a MR. MAMOULIAN short can be. Words reflected from a guidebook meet the reality of downpouring British weather, entering a hiker, while confirming the words underlining the absurdity of Mr. Mamoulian's reality.

Hester's pencils worked very well with Jim Frier's story with a twist, POACHER. The borrowed (stupid, stupid) rat creature (nooo, I won't tell Jeff...) adding much to the surprise.

Greg DiGenti conjures the losers of the world (and the lovers of EIGHTBALL). Though I think, ZERO ZERO would be a better home for it, now that NEGATIVE BURN has 48 pages (thanks!), there's finally the room for a wide range of stories (the lesser room there is, the larger the danger of the book looking too non-uniform and that means not getting an audience in the end).

LOST PARADISE is written and drawn in the tradition of a Moebius story. It succeeds on every level and compliments the cover art (hmm, is that you on your way to Gary, with a new box of stories?!).

DONOR was a powerful Wheeler short with horror and sharp social comment (that by nature contains elements of horror), revealing just one cruel truth after the other, until the bastard ending. I'm sure, as prose someone would select it for some "Best of the Year" anthology of horror stories.

FATHER returns to school days and the games boys play, trying to lessen their frustrations by torturing weak ones, but this time there'll be help. The kick is linking it with the inquisition. As "Bits" put it: "The arch is what makes it work."

THE DRYADS..., as can be read in Borges' "The Book of Imaginary Beings," ... dwelled in trees, without being seen, and died with them." A beautiful poem, adapted in pictures of beauty, anyway.

Finally an experimental one-pager, NETHERWORLD INTERNSHIP, where the artist has got to get the most out of a single idea in very less space. I enjoyed it and, yes, I'd like to see more from the highly-talented Zander Cannon. (I'm sure I'll retell THE FIRST FLOWER ON THE MOON from No. 19 even when I've become old).

Altogether, NEGATIVE BURN No. 22 is one of the strongest issues with A-1 quality (you do remember this anthology, don't you?!).

Another thing I can hardly wait to see is the rats in the sketchbook section of No. 25 (bu-huh ... one of the finest writers of our time and what does he draw!?). Well, hope you don't end up this way.

Congratulations to you and Ken Meyer Jr. for the nomination for the 1994 WECIA for Best Short Story!!! Bye then.

I think most of the credit should go to Neil Gaiman for writing the story in the first place! But thanks.

Also, be sure to check out THE REPLACEMENT GOD No. 1 on sale now from Slave Labor Comics for more of Zander's work! You won't be disappointed. We'll also be publishing Zander in the months to come (including this issue and a special REPLACEMENT GOD short in No. 29- with a cover by Zander!), so if you haven't already done so, it's time to jump on the Zander bandwagon before you get left behind!

Steve Welburn
via Internet

Hi there.

This past weekend was a bank holiday over here in the UK, so I finally caught up on some of my comic-reading backlog. I've now read through to NEGATIVE BURN 21, so I'm close to up-to-date, and I've read the three KILROY issue 1's (Revelations, Short Stories & ongoing).

I was pleased to see myself in print in NB No. 20, if a little surprised. Guess I'm turning into an e-mail hack. NB continues to be interesting, and the recent Paul Pope stuff has been great. I'm enjoying the lack of ongoing stories in NB-I like anthology titles to be dippable.

I agree with you about Paul's recent work. It's the best he's done in these pages. If you haven't had a chance to check out his series, THB, please do yourself a favor and see what all the hype is about! Also, look out for BUZZ BUZZ this summer! It promises to be a lot of fun. You can order directly from Paul at Horse Press, PO Box 3112, Columbus, OH 43210-0112. Tell him Joe sent ya.

CALIBER COMICS

CHECKLIST

AUGUST ◆ SEPTEMBER 1995

A.K.A. GOLDFISH: JOKER

In this suspense-riddled crime drama every character is convinced they are the "wildcard" that will bring the city down in flames. The clincher is, they all might be just that. By Brian Michael Bendis. $2.95

THE APPARITION: VISITATIONS

This collection features shorts of the Archangel Adriel written by James Pruett with art by Craig Brasfield, Nathan Massengill, Matthew Smith and Gene Gonzales. $2.95

THE JAM #9

BERNIE MIREAULT'S "THE JAM" COMES TO CALIBER. Gordon finds himself forced to make up a story to entertain his sister's kid. He comes up with a murder mystery involving the letters of the alphabet as subjects. There is also a back up story by Bernie and fellow Montreal artist Luc Giard. $2.95

KABUKI COLOR GALLERY

Features 32 FULL COLOR paintings and illustrations of Kabuki characters by Tim Bradstreet, Collen Doran, Kyle Hotz, Mike Okamoto, Andrew Robinson, Ken Meyer Jr., Vincent Locke, Guy Davis and many more. $2.95

KILROY IS HERE #3

In "Reflections," World War II veteran Miles Colleran must come to grips with a real life nightmare, after five decades since their last encounter, Kilroy appears to him in a chilling confrontation in Arlington Cemetery. By Joe Pruett and Ken Meyer, Jr. $2.95

INFERNO #1

48 PAGE PREMIERE ISSUE. At the heart of the underworld is the city of Inferno- a sprawling, endless mass of fragments from every city that ever existed. Its inhabitants: the damned and desperate. John Travis becomes a pawn and prize in a game where the stakes include his immortal soul. By Mike Carey and Michael Gaydos. $2.95

NEGATIVE BURN #26

Featured stories include: Alan Moore's songbook with artist Michael Gaydos, a new short of the cult favorite Very Vicki, and much more. $2.95

OZ #0

This special issue takes place before our first issue of OZ. Featuring the Wizard's banishment and Dorothy Gale's imprisonment by the evil Nome King as he overthrows Queen Ozma and tries to take command of Oz. $2.95

RAVEN CHRONICLES #2

Ellentown , Wisconsin. A typical small-town. That is until "it" was built...The Landing Zone. A beacon to worlds on the outside of space? The Raven, Inc. team must find out. Illustrated by Gene Gonzales and written by Brent Truax. $2.95

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A 16 month calendar featuring Caliber titles and characters such as Renfield, Oz, Dominique, Raven Chronicles, Kilroy, AKA Goldfish, The Jam, Baker Street and many more!!! In comic format, heavy stock, $3.95

EXIT #1

Caliber is proud to bring EXIT to American audiences. It is summer. School's out forever and there's a new world lying in wait for Karl and his friends. A world they must now navigate whether they like to or not. Written and illustrated by Nabiel Kanan. $2.95

INFERNO #2

Travis continues to search for clues for why he was killed and by whom; the werewoman, Shule Borraial, faces death by fire in Holt's palace and Nostradamus confronts the anti-magical might of Malateste. It's not a good day in Hell for anybody. But who should you be afraid of when you're already dead and damned? Written by comics veteran Mike Carey and illustrated by Michael Gaydos. $2.95

KABUKI:CIRCLE OF BLOOD #5

Kabuki's climactic confrontation with Kai and his gangsters is only a breath away. Defying her orders to avoid Kai, Kabuki tracks him down in search of answers and reveange. Written and illustrated by David Mack. $3.95

KILROY IS HERE #1 (Signed Edition)

Available again! This special package contains a signed edition of Kilroy Is Here #1, and at no extra cost, a copy of Kilroy: The Short Stories. $2.95

NEGATIVE BURN #27

Talent in this issue includes; Jeffrey Lang, Chris McLoughlin, Larry Hancock, Michael Cherkas, Brian Bolland and Michael Avon Oeming (JUDGE DREDD) debuts Mala Morales in "Bad Morals". Steve Lieber provides the cover. $2.95

OZ SPECIAL: SCARECROW #1

This self contained tale focuses on the smartest and wackiest of Baum's creations, Scarecrow. Wogglebug, on his way to the Emerald City, is attacked by Scarecrow's army of crows. What has brought the light-hearted Scarecrow to become this malevolent entity? Story by Ralph Griffith and Stuart Kerr with art by Daniel Preece. $2.95

OZ SPECIAL: LION #1

The Lion returns to his forest homeland, where he proclaims himself King of the jungle and makes all the animals subservient to him. Only Hungry Tiger has the courage to stand up to him, but can he battle the Lion? Story by Ralph Griffith and Stuart Kerr with art by Paul Kowalski. $2.95

RAVEN CHRONICLES #3

The crew of Raven, Inc. are asked to help in the extradition of a prisoner with pyrokinesis from the Amazon jungle. However, he escapes, and the team pursues him deep into the heart of the jungle where they encounter a tribe of psionic enhanced people called "The Rain People". Written by Bryan Andrews and art by Wayne Vansant. 48-pages for $2.95

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No. 3 . . . . . $8.00
No. 4-7, 9-12, 14-24, 26 & up . . . . . $2.95 each
No. 13, 25 . . . . . $3.95
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No. 1 A collection of Phillip Hester's popular serial that ran in the pages of NEGATIVE BURN. 64 pages $3.50

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No. 1 Features the very first appearance of KILROY by Joe Pruett and Bil Ruth. Contributors include Brent Truax, Patrick Zircher, Vince Locke, Kyle Garrett, and Guy Davis. 48 pages. VERY LIMITED SUPPLY. . . . $10.00

DOMINIQUE

Leaping from the pages of DARK HORSE PRESENTS and NEGATIVE BURN, Charles and Lisa Moore's popular character, DOMINIQUE, now stars in her own series of one-shots. 32 pages. Choices are FAMILY MATTERS, WHITE KNUCKLE DRIVE, PROTECT AND SERVE and KILLZONE. . . . . $2.95 each

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No. 0 Features a new lead story by creator Joe Pruett and artist Ken Meyer Jr., plus the hard to find first appearance from CALIBRATIONS. Cover art by Brain Bolland! 32 pages. $2.95

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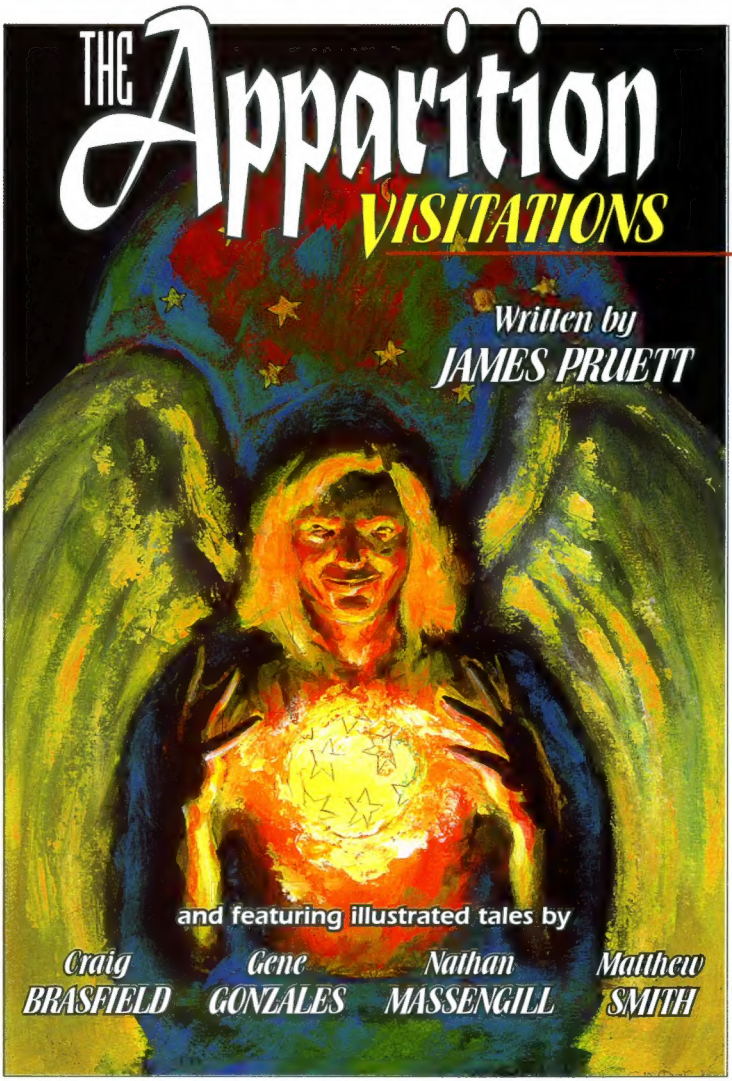

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